

Data Management Plan (DMP) for “National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD) Rail Lines GIS Files [2010 to 2014]” dataset.

Office of Spatial Analysis and Visualization (OSAV),
Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS),
U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)
2019-03-11

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Change log:

2019-03-11: Initial DMP written

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0. Dataset and Contact Information

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Title of Dataset: National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD) Rail Lines GIS Files

URL: <https://doi.org/10.21949/1503453>

This is an ☒ initial DMP or a ☐ revised DMP.

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1. Data Description:

The National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD) Rail Lines GIS Files are a frequently requested subset of the National Transportation Atlas Database. The dataset provides location and partial attribute information for use in United States national and regional network analysis applications. The Rail Lines database and shapefiles document the United States' railway system at the 1:100,000 scale or better. The data set covers all 50 States and the District of Columbia. Each zip file shows the system as it existed during a specific year. Files available here were collected annually during 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014. On-going collection of NTAD Rail data continues and current data can be found at <https://www.bts.dot.gov/geospatial/national-transportation-atlas-database>.

Potential users of this data include researchers, local, state, and national entities interested in passenger and freight rail infrastructure. This data has long-term value for transportation planners.

These datasets are in the public domain and available without restriction.

This data management plan will be reviewed annually by BTS and NTL staff to ensure long-term compliance.

2. Standards Employed:

The shape files collected here are saved in the ubiquitous and common shape file formats in use during 2010 to 2014. These formats are common to both proprietary ESRI products as well as many open source spatial data software programs.

If new versions of these files are created, versioning will be denoted by date and time stamp in the file name.

Documentation will include this data management plan, and the metadata and readme files created when the data was captured in 2010 to 2014. Each zip file contains a metadata file, documenting Identification Information; Data Quality Information; Spatial Data Organization Information; Spatial Reference Information; Entity and Attribute Information; Distribution Information; and, Metadata Reference Information.

Metadata for the NTAD Rail datasets is reported using the FGDC Content Standards for Digital Geospatial Metadata, Version: FGDC-STD-001-1998.

A Project Open Data Version 1.1 .json metadata file will be created to describe the archival location of this data, and that .json file will be uploaded to data.gov and transportation.data.gov

Necessary software tools: The file formats found in the zip files include: .txt files, which can be opened using any text editor; .dbf files, which can be opened with and database software; .htm or .html files which can be viewed with any web browser; .prj files, or project files, which can be opened in a number of proprietary software packages; .xml files, which can be opened in text editors or xml editors; and, shape files with extensions such as .sbn, .sbx, .shp, and .shx which can be opened with GIS software.

3. Access Policies:

These data files are in the public domain, and can be shared without restriction. The data files contain no sensitive information.

4. Re-Use, Redistribution, and Derivative Products Policies:

These data are managed by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Office of Spatial Analysis and Visualization (OSAV). The data are in the public domain, and may be re-use without restriction.

Citation of the data is appreciated. Please use the following recommended citation:

U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics. National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD) Rail Lines GIS Files [2010 to 2014]. Washington, D.C.: 2019.
<https://doi.org/10.21949/1503453>

5. Archiving and Preservation Plans:

The dataset will be archived in the National Transportation Library Repository and Open Science Access Portal (ROSA P).. Prior to archiving, the data are stored on the secured BTS networks and drives, which are backed up nightly. The US DOT systems are secured from outside users and backed up daily.

Files in ROSA P are backed up in NTL drives at US DOT, daily; at the Centers for Disease Control, the repository managing facility, daily; and in Amazon Web Service Cloud servers in Virginia and Oregon daily.

The dataset will be retained in perpetuity.

NTL staff will mint persistent Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) for each dataset stored in ROSA P. These DOIs will be associated with dataset documentation as soon as they become available for use.

The DOIs associate with this dataset include:

National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD) Rail Lines GIS Files repository landing page:

<https://doi.org/10.21949/1503453>

National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD) Rail Lines GIS Files 2010 direct Zip download link:

<https://doi.org/10.21949/1503454>

National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD) Rail Lines GIS Files 2011 direct Zip download link:

<https://doi.org/10.21949/1503455>

National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD) Rail Lines GIS Files 2012 direct Zip download link:

<https://doi.org/10.21949/1503456>

National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD) Rail Lines GIS Files 2013 direct Zip download link:

<https://doi.org/10.21949/1503457>

National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD) Rail Lines GIS Files 2014 direct Zip download link:

<https://doi.org/10.21949/1503458>

ROSA P meets all of the criteria outlined on the “Guidelines for Evaluating Repositories for Conformance with the DOT Public Access Plan” page: <https://ntl.bts.gov/publicaccess/evaluatingrepositories.html>

6. Policies Affecting this Data Management Plan

This data management plan was created to meet the requirements enumerated in the U.S. Department of Transportation's "Plan to Increase Public Access to the Results of Federally-Funded Scientific Research"

Version 1.1 <<

<https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/docs/Official%20DOT%20Public%20Access%20Plan%20ver%201.1.pdf> >> and guidelines suggested by the DOT Public Access website <<

<https://ntl.bts.gov/publicaccess/> >>, in effect and current as of March, 2019.